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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Enable us, O Almighty God, to take the heavenly vision of harmony and peace and mercy and truth and translate that vision into the work that we do with our hearts and minds and hands. Encourage to take our ideas and ideals, our hopes and dreams, our faith and our convictions into the realm of daily action and personal responsibility. May we so heed Your word of truth and Your message of justice that Your will may be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. GANSKE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. GANSKE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will announce there will be 5 1-minutes on each side.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will: Force Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget. We have done this.

It goes on to state that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we have done this; unfunded mandates legislation—we have done this; line-item veto—we have done this; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we are doing this now; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for families to lift Government's burden from middle-income Americans; national security restoration to protect our freedoms; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; Government regulatory reform; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

APPOINT AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, today marks the third full week since the naming of the House Ethics Committee. As of now the committee has not

discussed any of the very important issues before them involving our Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there is a cloud hovering over the Capitol, a very dark cloud that will not go away until many questions are answered. As each day passes, this cloud grows larger and darker with new questions of ethics violations.

It should not take 100 days for the Ethics Committee to act. In fact it should not take them long at all to decide that an independent counsel is the only way these questions involving our Speaker can be answered.

If there is nothing to hide, let the independent counsel begin immediately. Only an independent counsel can remove this dark cloud over this great House of Representatives.

FOR THE CHILDREN

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, why are Republicans working to change the way Government works? Why are we working so hard to pass a balanced budget amendment, to enact real anticrime measures, to reform our welfare state? The answer is: for America's children.

We want to get this country in the best possible shape for future generations.

Our democracy must remain strong. We must clean our streets of crime, get our fiscal house in order, and provide every American the greatest opportunity to pursue happiness.

To do these things, we must change direction. We cannot continue to spend and tax our way to financial ruin. We cannot continue a welfare state that destroys opportunity and ruins generations of Americans. We cannot allow

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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